

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

ISSUES

Fairfax County was one of three local governments which helped to found the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA) in 1959 under the Virginia Park Authorities Act. Now six jurisdictions are members: the counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. The NVRPA purpose is to plan, acquire, develop and operate a system of regional parks for Northern Virginia's citizens as well as to supplement and augment local facilities. Regional parks are distinguished from county and local parks in two ways:

- 1) They are designed to appeal to and serve the broad-based population of the entire Northern Virginia region; or
- 2) The Regional Authority may assume projects which a single jurisdiction could not undertake alone. The Washington and Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park, which extends through Alexandria, Arlington, Falls Church, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties, is an example of a project which has region-wide characteristics.

The NVRPA now owns 10,256 acres of land, of which more than 7,700 acres are in Fairfax County. The Regional Parks system serves a population of well over one million people. Parklands within the system include: Bull Run, Bull Run Marina, Fountainhead, Sandy Run, Pohick Bay, Carlyle House Historic Park, Potomac Overlook, Upton Hill, Algonkian, Red Rock, the W&OD Trail, Occoquan, Hemlock Overlook, Cameron Run, Gateway, Meadowlark Gardens, Ball's Bluff, Temple Hall, and Brambleton.

In its conservation role, NVRPA is involved in implementing portions of the Environmental Quality Corridors concept, which defines an open space land system designated for long-term protection in the County. In this role, NVRPA places emphasis on acquisition of the shoreline properties along the Potomac, Bull Run, and Occoquan Rivers, while

the Fairfax County Park Authority concentrates on acquiring land along the County's interior stream valleys.

PROGRAM GOALS

The Mission of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority is: "To plan, acquire, develop, construct, operate and maintain a system of regional parks, within the geographical limits of the political subdivisions composing the Authority." Program Goals are listed below:

- 1) Provide a diverse system of regional park lands and recreational facilities - that meet the needs of a dynamic and growing population and enhance leisure time opportunities for Northern Virginians;
- 2) Protect regionally significant resources - through acquisition and protection of regionally significant areas of exceptional natural, environmental, historic, cultural, recreational or aesthetic value;
- 3) Balance facility development with resource protection - through a balanced approach to the development of recreational amenities with the preservation of natural, scenic, historic, cultural and other environmentally sensitive resources;
- 4) Provide high quality park and recreation facilities - by maintaining the integrity and quality of park and recreation facilities with careful development, operation and maintenance practices;
- 5) Provide regional leadership - in the planning and coordination of regionally significant park and recreation projects; and
- 6) Maintain sound fiscal management - so as to provide for long-term financial stability and solvency.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GUIDANCE

In an effort to support NVRPA with its stated mission and policies, the County has dedicated itself to help fulfill NVRPA's program goals as stated in the County's adopted Policy Plan element of the Comprehensive Plan. The County's objectives and policies for this particular agency are to provide whatever means and support, as agreed, for the continuing acquisition, development and/or maintenance of regional parkland and facilities for the County and Northern Virginia.

RECENT PROGRAM ACTIVITY

In a recent five year period (FY97-FY01) of capital program development, the Park Authority received \$11,822,027 in support from its regional membership jurisdictions, plus an additional \$3,524,662 in grants, donations and miscellaneous revenue, representing an actual program level of \$15,346,689. Of this amount, \$13,386,062 was paid for park development and capital equipment. During this period, NVRPA acquired 112 acres of land valued at \$1,868,636.

Among the many accomplishments during the last five years are: acquisition of 55 acres adjacent to Ball's Bluff Regional Park; renovation of the nature center at Potomac Overlook to improve energy efficiency; the development of specialty gardens and an indoor garden and reception/meeting facility at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, , and expansion of the green house and maintenance building; modification of existing features to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act; construction of an aquatic habitat at Brambleton Regional Park; expansion of the pro shop and maintenance facility and renovations to Pohick Bay Golf Course; addition of play features at the pool and construction of the maintenance facility at Algonkian; trail realignment and widening, and bridge and wayside improvements on the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park; replacement of the floating dock at Sandy Run; improvements to the batting cages at Upton Hill and Cameron Run; a new picnic and meeting shelter at Hemlock Overlook; and on-going renovations and upgrades to existing roads, parking and restroom facilities.

CURRENT PROGRAM SUMMARY

Through a series of public meetings, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority has developed a list of Capital projects to be completed by the end of fiscal year 2005. Significant Capital development and acquisition needs exist for future years but have not yet been identified through the typical program development process. Therefore, the following descriptions and cost summaries do not include specific project details for fiscal years 2006-2012.

The proposed Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority program includes 16 projects throughout the region. The total project amount is \$46.691 million, with \$3.76 million recommended for FY2003.

Funds from Fairfax County to support the Regional Park Authority's capital program have historically come from general obligation bonds. Voters approved a bond program in the fall of 1998 which included \$12 million, representing Fairfax County's share of the Authority's capital fund request for park acquisition and development. Each of NVRPA's member jurisdictions share is proportionate to its population percentage in the region. For FY2003 the County is scheduled to contribute \$2.25 million for capital projects.

A portion of the capital improvement program includes the repair and renovation of existing, aging facilities, such as new roofs for twenty-year-old buildings, road repairs, new plumbing, new filter systems for older swimming pools and similar work to preserve and repair existing facilities. Additional elements of the CIP made possible by passage of the bond include land acquisition, expansion of existing facilities, and new specialty features to meet the needs of the region.

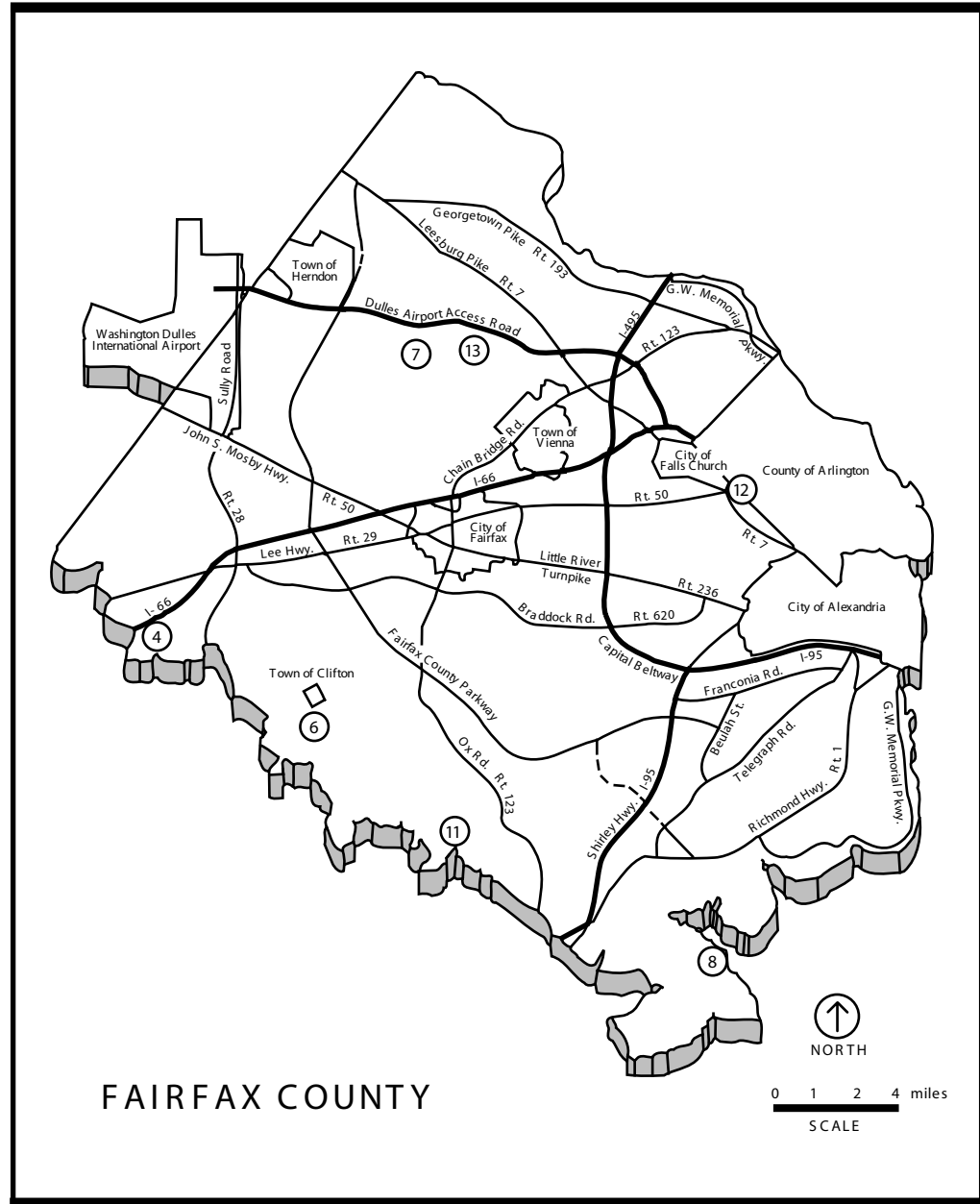
PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Algonkian Regional Park (Loudoun County).** \$395,000 for golf course renovations; club house and cottage renovations and upgrades; picnic shelter improvements; parking lot expansion; new pool features; and trails.

2. **Ball's Bluff Regional Park (Loudoun County).** \$425,000 for park interpretive facility; and trail and entrance road improvements.
3. **Brambleton Regional Park (Loudoun County).** \$950,000 for model park development; golf course improvements; new shelters; and rowing facilities.
4. **Bull Run Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$195,000 for shooting center enhancements, swimming pool and bath house renovations, new road and parking features, water system enhancements, maintenance shop expansion, , campground and comfort station improvement, and interpretive displays.
5. **Cameron Run Regional Park (Alexandria).** \$716,000 for wave pool and water slide renovations, new play pool feature, pool building expansion; and batting cage facilities.
6. **Hemlock Overlook Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$410,000 for construction of a classroom building, shelter, related parking and infrastructure improvements; and additional training features.
7. **Meadowlark Gardens Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$400,000 for garden development, historic structure restoration, interpretative displays, road and parking lot renovations, and trail improvements.
8. **Pohick Bay Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$1,195,000 for golf course, maintenance building, and shelter improvements; pool renovations; well development; marina dock renovations and interpretive displays.
9. **Potomac Overlook Regional Park (Arlington County).** \$100,000 for renovations and enhancements to park entrance.
10. **Red Rock Wilderness Overlook Regional Park (Loudoun County).** \$60,000 for building renovations and interpretive displays.
11. **Sandy Run Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$200,000 for boat rack shelter, training building, and restroom facility.
12. **Upton Hill Regional Park (Fairfax and Arlington Counties).** \$170,000 for pool, bathhouse, and miniature golf renovations; batting cage improvements, and additional picnic and play area features.
13. **W&OD Railroad Regional Park (City of Falls Church, City of Fairfax, Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties).** \$806,000 for trail expansion and realignment, paving and renovation, interpretive displays, road crossing safety improvements, bridge and stream crossing improvements and support buildings.
14. **Land Acquisition (Region-wide).** \$2,934,000 for acquisition of new park lands and easements.
15. **Support Facilities (Region-wide).** \$1,971,000 for new facilities, renovations, maintenance equipment and vehicle replacement. This project category includes planning, expenditures, development and capital equipment purchases not specifically connected with a particular public use facility or related to a particular park location.
16. **Roads & Parking (Region-wide).** \$722,000 for improving and renovating gravel and paved surfaces in all parks.

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- 4. Bull Run Regional Park
- 6. Hemlock Overlook Regional Park
- 7. Meadowlark Gardens Regional Park
- 8. Pohick Bay Regional Park
- 11. Sandy Run Regional Park
- 12. Upton Hill Regional Park
- 13. W&OD Railroad Regional Park



PROJECT COST SUMMARIES
NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
(\$000's)

(As requested by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority staff)

PROJECT TITLE (FUNDING SOURCE)	TOTAL PROJECT COST	AUTHORIZED/ EXPENDED THRU FY2002/1	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	TOTAL FY2003-FY2007	TOTAL FY2008-FY2012 /3	ADDITIONAL NEEDED
1. Algonkian Regional Park	\$395		\$215	\$30	\$150			\$395		
2. Balls Bluff Regional Park	425		100	325				425		
3. Brambleton Golf Course	950			475	475			950		
4. Bull Run Regional Park	195		55	40	100			195		
5. Cameron Run Regional	716		35	307	374			716		
6 Hemlock Overlook	410		410					410		
7. Meadowlark Gardens	400		50	75	275			400		
8. Pohick Bay Regional	1,195		155	540	500			1,195		
9. Potomac Overlook	100		100					100		
10. Red Rock Overlook	60				60			60		
11. Sandy Run Regional	200				200			200		
12. Upton Hill Regional	170		40	130				170		
13. W&OD Railroad Regional	806		316	225	265			806		
14. Land Acquisition	2,934		1,220	640	1,074			2,934		
15. Regionwide Projects/Support	1,971		837	718	416			1,971		
16. Roads and Parking	722		222	250	250			722		
TOTAL	\$46,691 /2		\$3,755	\$3,755	\$4,139	\$5,006	\$5,006	\$21,661 /2	\$25,030 /2	

/1 All projects are continuing and prior expenditures are not shown.

/2 Includes \$5,006,000 per year for FY 2006 - FY 2012 that have yet to be allocated to specific projects.

Projected revenues for the FY 2003 - FY 2007 Project Summary are based upon 2000 population figures.

Capital projects are subject to review, refinement and approval by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Board.

Program shown represents the total program for all participating jurisdictions as requested by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

Note: Numbers in italics indicate that Fairfax County is providing a contribution through general obligation bonds to the total project cost.